

Message Text

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21

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FM AMEMBASSY ATHENS

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 1414

INFO AMEMBASSY ANKARA

AMEMBASSY BELGRADE

AMEMBASSY BUCHAREST

AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

AMEMBASSY ROME

AMEMBASSY SOFIA

AMCONSUL THESSALONIKI

USMISSION NATO

C O N F I D E N T I A L ATHENS 9058

LIMDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR GR BU RO YO AL TU

SUBJ: FURTHER DEVELOPMENTS ON BALKAN MEETING

REF A. ATHENS 7550 B. ATHENS 7473

1. DURING MY GENERAL PRIVATE DISCUSSION LAST NIGHT WITH FOREIGN MINISTER BITSIOS, AT ONE POINT I ASKED HIM WHETHER THE GOG HAD YET HEARD FROM TURKEY IN RESPONSE TO THE GREEK PROPOSAL FOR A MEETING OF THE BALKAN STATES (REF TELS). BITSIOS SAID NO, THAT THEY WERE STILL WAITING FOR TURKEY'S REPLY. HE SAID THAT THE GREEK AMBASSADOR IN ANKARA HAD FOLLOWED UP SEVERAL TIMES ON THE MATTER AND THAT THE REPLY, EACH TIME AT HIGHER LEVELS IN THE TURKISH GOVERNMENT, HAD BEEN THAT THE TURKISH RESPONSE WOULD BE TRANSMITTED TO THE GREEK GOVERNMENT QTE IN A FEW
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DAYS. UNQTE FINALLY, BITSIOS SAID, HE HAD INSTRUCTED THE

GREEK AMBASSADOR IN ANKARA TO DISCUSS THE MATTER PERSONALLY WITH FOREIGN MINISTER CAGLAYANGIL. THE LATTER'S REPLY WAS THAT THE TURKISH POSITION HAD BEEN DECIDED UPON AND PUT IN A LETTER THAT WAS WITH PRIME MINISTER DEMIREL AND AWAITING HIS SIGNATURE. CAGLAYANGIL SAID THAT THE GREEK GOVERNMENT SHOULD HAVE THE TURKISH REPLY QTE IN A FEW DAYS. UNQTE BITSIOS DID NOT WISH TO SPECULATE ABOUT WHAT THE REPLY WOULD CONTAIN, BUT IN THE CONTEXT OF OUR PARALLEL DISCUSSION ABOUT OVERALL GREEK-TURKISH RELATIONS--IN WHICH HE WAS GENERALLY DISHEARTENED AND DISCOURAGED--HE WAS NOT OPTIMISTIC THAT TURKEY WOULD BE COOPERATIVE WITH GREECE ON THIS INITIATIVE. KUBISCH

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